THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) A Policy package already exists for promotion of Small Scale Industries (SSI) Sector, which *inter-alia* includes fiscal incentives, easier access to credit, marketing support, availability of collateral free composite loans up to Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure. In addition, announcement of a major promotional package for the SSI sector is also a part of National Common Minimum Programme of Government.

(c) The details regarding the production and export by SSI Sector during the last five years are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Production at current prices (Rupees Crores)	Exports (Rupees Crores)
1.	1999-00	234255.00	54200.00
2.	2000-01	261289.00	69797.00
3.	2001-02	282270.00	71244.00
4.	2002-03	311993.00	86013.00*
5.	2003-04	351427.00	N.A.

*(Latest available)

National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System

1020. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and USA propose to collaborate in the 'National Polar Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System' (NPOESS) which would be used for remote sensing;

(b) if so, whether the system would be used to predict cyclones, help in disaster management, in areas of agriculture, fisheries, maritime, industries and other economic sector; and

(c) if so, whether this project would have any defence implications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of USA have agreed to explore the possibility of

collaborating in the planned constellation of National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites System (NPOESS), primarily for application related to weather, atmosphere, oceans, land and near-space environment. Towards the above, NPOESS payloads characteristics, concept of operation and system architecture etc., have been exchanged for working out further details.

(c) Defence implications, if any, will be examined during the course of detailed evaluation of the arrangement for collaboration.

Thematic Satellite

1021. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) by when, ISRO is going to develop the series of thematic satellites for communication and remote sensing application in education, health, map-making, ocean sensing research, etc;

(b) the details of other satellites which are part of the thematic satellites;

(c) whether it is a fact that ISRO is planing to set up an operational disaster management support services network as a part of this series; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has already deployed thematic satellites in the area of Oceanographic research by launching Oceansat-1 in May 1999; natural resources study by launching Resourcesat-1 in October 2003, and also provided needed capacity from its communication satellites for the purpose of education, telemedicine and development communication.

(b) ISRO is launching an exclusive EDUSAT in September 2004 dedicated for education; CARTOSAT 1 & 2 in 2005 for carrying out cartographic applications; followed by a Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT) for microwave thematic applications.

(c) and (d) A decision support system for disaster management is in the process of being set up at the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) of the Department of Space, mainly using space based observation and communications systems.